

Amendments to th Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

5

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A  
10 disk rotating apparatus that comprises comprising:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively  
so that it can be insertedmounted and removed therefromas needed and which  
rotates said disk around said disk axis; and in that it has

15 the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a gap between said smooth surface  
and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with and said air-  
bearing means device being constructed so that it can be is moveable away  
from said disk held by said axis of rotationrotating shaft.

20 2. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an  
apparatus that comprises comprising:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds a disk selectivelyso that it can  
be insertedmounted or removed therefromas needed, which has;

25 a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis of  
rotationrotating shaft; and

a positionering means that positions the a head with respect to said disk,  
and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by

operation of said disk by said head; and in that it has

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing  
at the surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface  
and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with said air-bearing  
5 device means being constructed so that it can be separableted from said disk  
held by said axis of rotationrotating shaft.

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A  
disk rotating apparatus that comprisinges:

10 an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively  
so that it can be insertedmounted and removed therefrom as needed and which  
rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has:

15 an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing  
the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface  
and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said  
disk with which and for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a  
direction of axis of said axis of rotationrotating shaft while the said surface of said  
disk is being supported.

20

4. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an  
apparatus that comprisinges:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it

can be selectively inserted mounted and removed therefrom as needed, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;

a positioning means that positions at the head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

10 a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said disk with which and for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a direction of axis of said axis of rotation rotating shaft while the said surface of said disk is being supported.

15 5. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A disk rotating apparatus that comprising:

an axis of rotation a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively inserted mounted and removed therefrom; as needed, and which rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has

20 an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

a disk support means, which is a means that supports for supporting said disk with which said disk is moved and for moving said disk back and forth in the

a direction of axis of said axis of rotationrotating shaft while the said surface and an end face of said disk are being supported.

6.(Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an An  
5 apparatus that comprisinges:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively insertedmounted and removed therefromas needed, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;

10 a positionering means that positions the a head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has:

an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing at the surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

15 a disk support means with which for moving said disk is moved back and forth in the a direction of axis of said axis of rotationrotating shaft while supporting the said surface and an end face of said disk.

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A  
20 disk rotating apparatus that comprisinges

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk selectively so that it can be insertedmounted and removed therefromas needed and which rotates said disk around said disk axis, and in that it has;

an air-bearing devicemeans, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a gap between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with, said air-bearing device means comprising a space for accessing the an end part of said disk, said 5 space being selected from a group consisting of such as an indentation, a cut-out part, or a through-hole, and any combinations thereofes.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an Amn apparatus that comprises:

10 an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively insertedmounted and removed therefromas needed, which has a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;

15 a positioning means that positions at the head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has:

an air-bearing devicemeans, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with, said air-bearing devicemeans having a space for accessing the an end part of said disk, said 20 space being selected from a group consisting of such as an indentation, cut-out part, a through-hole, etc., and any combinations thereof at the said surface facing said disk.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a A  
disk rotating apparatus that comprisinges:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft and which that rotates said disk around  
said disk axisof rotationrotating shaft; and in that it has

5 an air-bearing means device, which has having a smooth surface facing  
the surface of said disk, and wherein the a gap between said smooth surface  
and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and

a disk holdering means that can befor being selectively attached  
tomounted on and removed fromdemounted from said disk rotating apparatus-as  
needed, with said disk holding means being constructed so that it can be  
attached tomounted on and removed fromdemounted from said disk rotating  
apparatus as needed while still holding said disk.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an  
15 apparatus that comprisinges:

an axis of rotationa rotating shaft that holds for holding a disk so that it can  
be selectively insertedmounted and removed- therefrom as needed, which has a  
disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;

20 a positioner ing means that for positionings the a head with respect to said  
disk, and which performings an information recording and/or information  
reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has;

an air-bearing devicemeans, which has having a smooth surface facing  
the said surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth

surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and  
a disk holder ing means that can be selectively attached to mounted on and  
removed from demounted from said disk rotating apparatus as needed, with said  
disk holding means being constructed so that it can be attached to mounted on  
5 and removed from demounted from said disk rotating apparatus as needed while  
still holding said disk.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is a An disk  
operating apparatus that comprises  
10 an axis of rotation a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it  
can be selctively inserted mounted and removed therefrom as needed, which has  
a disk rotating means that rotates said disk around said disk axis and;  
15 a positioner ing means that positions the said head with respect to said  
disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information  
reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has:  
20 an air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing  
the a surface of said disk, and wherein at the space between said smooth surface  
and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller, with said disk rotating  
apparatus being constructed so that it can be attached to mounted on and  
removed from demounted from said disk operating apparatus while still holding  
said disk.

1312.(Currently amended) The apparatus in any of claims 1 through 11,

further characterized comprising in that it has a movable ramp-type load mechanism for loading/unloading of a head[[s]].

1312. (Currently amended) An apparatus, characterized in that it is an apparatus that comprises:

an axis of rotation a rotating shaft that holds and rotates a disk so that it can be selectively inserted mounted and removed therefrom as needed, which has:

a disk rotator means that rotates said disk around said disk axis of rotation rotating shaft and;

a positioner means that positions the a head with respect to said disk, and which performs an information recording and/or information reproduction by operation of said disk by said head, and in that it has:

at least one air-bearing device means, which has having a smooth surface facing the a surface of said disk, and wherein the a space between said smooth surface and the said surface of said disk is 300 microns or smaller; and further,

a movable ramp-type load mechanism for loading/unloading of said heads.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to any of claims 1 through 13, further characterized in that in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein said axis of rotation rotating shaft has a part thereof that engages with said disk, with said engaging part having an engagement tolerance such that said disk slides along said axis of rotation rotating shaft while maintaining an almost a

substantially horizontal posture with respect to said air-bearing means.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 14,~~  
~~further characterized in that in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein said air-~~  
5 bearing device~~means~~ has a part thereof that faces ~~all or~~at least a part of the said  
surface of said disk and a part continuous therewith ~~this~~ that protrudes from said  
disk.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 15,~~  
10 ~~further characterized in any of claims 1 through 12, wherein that the said smooth~~  
surface of said air-bearing device~~means~~ is selected from a group consisting of a  
ring-shaped or~~and~~ is a shape that envelopes a ring with a round hole on the  
inside thereof.

15 17.(Currently amended) The apparatus ~~in any of claims 1 through 16 in~~  
~~any of claims 1 through 12, further comprising~~~~characterized in that it also has a~~  
~~means that~~ an anchor for selectively temporarily anchoring the said  
rotation~~rotating shaft.~~